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## CITY OF LODI COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

**AGENDA TITLE:** National Night Out Proclamation for Tuesday, August 2, 2011

**MEETING DATE:** July 20, 2011

**PREPARED BY:** Interim Chief of Police

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Issue a National Night Out Proclamation for Tuesday, August 2, 2011.


**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The City of Lodi Police Department established the Neighborhood Watch Program in 1985. Police officers were specially trained to conduct Neighborhood Watch Meetings to provide crime prevention information and develop partnerships with the community. This year we celebrate 26 years of Lodi Neighborhood Watch with over 250 active and organized neighborhoods.

In 1988 Lodi joined the National Association of Town Watch and began taking part in National Night Out. Thousands of communities and hundreds of thousands of citizens participate in National Night Out each year. In 2009 the Lodi Police Department was unable to organize the event due to staffing changes. In 2010 crime prevention was again staffed and was able to organize National Night Out. City employees, City Council Members, Lodi Area Crime Stoppers members, Lodi Improvement Committee Members, and several law enforcement volunteers visited 85 participating Neighborhood Watch Groups.

Neighborhood Watch is a critical component in our ability to succeed in addressing crime issues. It is essential that all citizens of Lodi be aware of the importance of, and the impact their individual and group participation can have on reducing crime in Lodi. With staffing reductions continuing this year we face the shortage of personnel to organize National Night Out. Staff, recognizing the importance of this event, is volunteering time and resources to ensure we have a successful event.

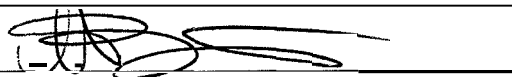
This year funds for handout, sticker badges and give-aways for each group is being made possible through the support of our Lodi Area Crime Stoppers and the National Night Out corporate sponsor Target. Staff members will be volunteering their time to visit Neighborhood Watch groups to reinforce the importance of Neighborhood Watch, and demonstrate our commitment to the partnerships in our community. We anticipate close to 100 Neighborhood Watch groups will take part in the 2011 National Night Out against crime.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

  
Ray Samuels, Interim Chief of Police

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APPROVED:

  
Konradt Bartlam, City Manager